United Nations S/PV.3818

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3818th Meeting

Thursday, 18 September 1997, 5.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Richardson	(United States of America)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Ms. Incera
	Egypt	Mr. Abdel Aziz
	France	Mr. Legal
	Guinea-Bissau	Ms. Da Rosa
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Soares
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Won Soo Kim
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Sweden	Mr. Dahlgren
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

97-86002 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

Expression of sympathy to the families of the victims of the United Nations helicopter crash in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The President: At the outset of the meeting, I should like, on behalf of the Security Council, to express deep sympathy to the Governments and the people of Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and to the bereaved families of the victims of the tragic crash in Bosnia and Herzegovina of a United Nations helicopter, which was carrying members of the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) and of the Office of the High Representative. The Council pays tribute to them for their ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace. On behalf of the Council, I wish the survivors a full and speedy recovery.

I now invite the members of the Council to stand and observe a minute of silence in memory of all those who so tragically lost their lives.

The members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Croatia and Germany, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. Eitel (Germany) took the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the lack of substantial progress by the Government of the Republic of Croatia in fulfilling the conditions and tasks that are key to the transfer of executive authority to the Republic of Croatia in the territories of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, as noted in its resolution 1120 (1997) and the 23 June 1997 report of the Secretary-General (S/1997/487).

"In this regard, the Security Council calls upon the Croatian Government to meet its obligations and commitments and to take immediate action in the following areas: to remove all administrative and legal obstacles to the two-way return of all displaced persons as well as to the return of refugees; to ensure security and social and economic opportunity including property rights for all returnees; to take effective measures to prevent harassment of returnees; to implement measures to establish effective local government administrations; to ensure the regular payment of benefits to all pension and welfare recipients and open Croatian pension offices in the region; to ensure further economic reintegration; to initiate a country-wide public programme of national reconciliation and curb media attacks on ethnic groups; and to implement fully and fairly the amnesty law and cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In this context, the Security Council notes the recent information provided by the Croatian Government on intended steps to address some of these issues and urges the Croatian Government to implement these steps without delay.

"The Security Council emphasizes that the prompt completion of the tasks outlined above, as well as the fulfilment by the Croatian Government of its obligations under the Basic Agreement (S/1995/951), the agreements between the Croatian Government and the United Nations Transitional

Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), as well as the letter of the Croatian Government of 13 January 1997 (S/1997/27, annex), will determine the pace of further devolution of executive authority for the civil administration to the Croatian Government as well as further Council action. The Council urges all parties to cooperate fully with UNTAES and looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General due no later than 6 October 1997, as requested in its resolution 1120 (1997)."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/45.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.